NOVEMBER
1991

HAMATEUR CHATTER

The Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.
The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club

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352-9642

2nd Vice-president Fred
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KE9JJ 545-6299

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353-1681

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774-6999

Joe Rayome KE9LL
463-7668

Marv Rutishauser
WB9PKL 782-3633

Orv Stewart KA9ONQ
527-2663

Roger Zaun W9UVV
242-4931

CLUB CALL W9RH

From the President's Desk

WE DID IT!!!

The 10/36 Friend's Wine Tasting Party, at May- fair Mall, was fun for all who participated. I'd like to thank Chet, Jim, Ken, Roger and Travis for their help. Ted Stiller let us have his HT for backup, but we all gave our own a good workout. The party was a **huge** success for channels 10/36. We heard figures from 4,000 to 5,400 people attended. We will be getting the final attendance figure from 10/36 in a week or so. Over 3,000 glasses were passed out in a half hour's time, and they then had to resort to paper cups! We helped to provide the communications for over three hundred volunteers plus all of the vendors. We all had sore feet at the end, but we really felt that we had provided a service. It gains us recognition as **hams** who are ready to help. **Our club has to do more of this.** We are sorry that you missed out on the fun. The people watching (XYL/YL) adds to it. I was most impressed with how well people dressed, looked and behaved. There is hope yet!

Several of us attended the swap fest before the wine tasting. Yes, it made for a **long** day. We felt good, however, be- cause we gained five new members at the fest. Thanks to all who helped man the tables.

Our club meeting on the 21st of this month will be a topper with KS9K - don't miss it. Also there will be a door prize - name as many men as you can from our club picture of December 29, 1921 - now that's a test!!

Let's all make the Christmas party on December 19th. The food and drink will help you get in the mood for the holidays and kick off 1992 with a bang!!

See you on the 21st.
Ed Wille, W9PWG

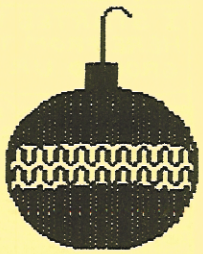
MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club will be held on Thursday, November 21st at 7:30 PM in Room 280 of Wauwautosa East High School. The doors will open around 7:00 PM for ragchewing and the like. The program for this meeting will be Paul Hellenberg, KS9K, describing his award winning station and antenna farm which is located near Racine. A photo of Paul's location was featured on the front cover of the October issue of *QST*.

SMARTEST HAM OF THE MONTH

The following members correctly identified the mystery component at the October meeting as a Bradleyohm compressible carbon pile rheostat (variable resistor):

Travis Baird - W9VQD
Fred Krause - W9VLK
Ed Bude - K9HJH



MRAC-VEC EXAMINATION DATES

On the following Tuesdays, exams will be held from 7:00 to 10:00 PM at 117th and Cleveland in the chuch hall. Nov. 19th, and Dec. 17th. This schedule will continue through 1992.

On the following SATURDAYS, exams will be held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at Savings and Loan, 7500 W. State St. on the lower level. Oct. 26th and Nov. 30th. The location and dates for Saturday exams will be announced in a future edition. Please arrive as close to the beginning of the testing session as possible so that all exams are completed by the end of the ses- sion. Bring along your original license and two good quality photocopies, two additional forms of identification (i.e. driv- ers' license, etc.), a pen and $5.00 (five dollars) for the exam fee (not required for the Novice exam). Walk-ins are welcome, but preregistration is requested if possi- ble. To register in advance, send a post card on which you have printed the grade of license for which you are applying, your name, address and telephone number to:

MRAC-VEC
% Jack Krause, W9JK, 1737 N. 116thSt. Wauwatosa, WI 53226 or
% Ed Seruga, KE9JJ, 3840 S. 43rd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53220
Telephone numbers are: W9JK - (414) 774-6999
KE9JJ - (414) 545-6299

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members of MRAC.

WB9LNY Jim Tromblay
N9MPT Thomas Hart
WB9IJY Bob Burgermeister
W9KSP John Deisinger
KD9FK Don Behrens

EDITORIAL

The holidays are rapidly approaching. It seems like just yesterday that we were trying to get ready for Field Day. May you all have a pleasant and bountiful Thanksgiving.

Another reminder that if you haven't renewed your membership as yet, you should do it immediately. You can give the $10 to Ed Seruga at the next meeting or mail it to him at PO Box 91, Milwaukee, WI 53201. We'd certainly hate to see you go.

See the enclosed flyer to sign up for this year's *Old Timers' Party*. Judging by past events, it should be fun for all who can make it. Let's see if we can set a new record for attendance!

As the end of the year approaches, I can't help but look back on all the changes that have occurred this year. In many of these events, amateur radio played an important role. Perhaps the most conspicuous was the manner in which ham radio helped to thwart the recent hard-liner coup attempt in the Soviet Union. Both *QST* and CQ magazines carried in their November issues, articles by hams who had participated in the resistance. Both articles make for very interesting reading. I would recommend taking a look at these if you have not already done so. We are certainly living in interesting times.

Within the next few issues, the area net schedule will again appear with, hopefully, all the suggested additions included. After that it will be show up several times during the year, but not in every issue.

There hasn't been any complaint about the lack of ARRL bulletins in the last several issues, nor was there about their inclusion. With that in mind, I will also include these as time and space allow.

We still could use more articles from the membership. See the submission by Roger Zaun, W9UVV, on these pages for an idea of the kind of article which is appropriate. I'm sure that there are many interesting stories out there. Why not share some of them with your fellow hams?

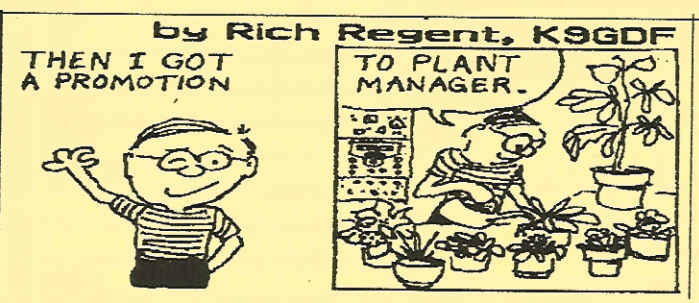
That's all for this month. I hope to see many of you at the next meeting. Meanwhile, be safe and enjoy ham radio.

KE9LL, editor

When Chicago was the Center of the Radio and Electronics Industry

by Roger Zaun, W9UVV

During a recent "straighten-up and seek out the junk" operation at my ham shack, I came across several photos taken when I was first working in electron ics in Chicago. These photos recalled to mind many of the companies that made Chicag o the center of the electronics industry from the late 30's through the 1950's.



A listing of some of the firms that many of you "old timers" may recognize are: Hallicrafters, Zenith, Motorola, Admiral, Shure Brothers, Howard Radio, Thordarson Electric, Taylor Tube Co., Meissner, Scott Radio Labs, McMurdo Silver, Utah Radio Products, etc. Unfortunately, only a few survived the onset of solid state technology and the onslaught of off-shore competition.

Of special interest to me was the accompanying photo (pg 4) which recorded the day that E.H. Scott of Scott Radio Labs brought the Military Communications Receiver in to Thordarson Electric Co. This demonstration, before our assembled Engineering Department, occurred in late 1942. Scott Radio held contracts to produce this receiver for the Navy and the Merchant Marine. As Thordarson was supplying the power, filter and audio transformers for these receivers, Scott's visit was, of course, motivated by the desire to spur us on to meet the ever escalating wartime production schedules.

The SLR series of receivers, developed by Scott Radio, were unique in being highly shielded to produce low radiation. The onset of World War II found our Navy and Merchant Ships with much antiquated communications equipment. Many of these receivers were inadequately shielded and radiated a signal from their VFO's.

During the early days of the war, the Nazi Submarine Wolf Packs, operating in the North Atlantic, were sinking U.S. and Allied shipping at an alarming rate. It was reported that they were locating our ships by homing in on the shipboard receiver's VFO signals.Thus Scott Radio and many of their component suppliers, were instrumental in resolving this serious and urgent problem.

E.H. Scott, incidentally, is the bald gentleman to the right of the photo. W9UVV (with a full head of hair!) is at the far left and was then a fledgling design engineer working of the application of transformers in communication and industrial vacuum tube circuits.

So much for nostalgia and all that stuff!